

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: George H. HOFFMAN et al.

Title: SYSTEM, METHOD AND COMPUTER
PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR AN
ELECTRONICS AND APPLIANCES SUPPLY
CHAIN MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Appl. No.: 09/816,420

Filing Date: 03/23/2001

Examiner: Florian M. Zeender

Art Unit: 3627

RECEIVED
SEP 9 2004
GROUP 3600



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

09/07/2004 HGUTENA1 00000002 190741 09816420
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TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(c), before the mailing date of either a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

All of the documents are in English.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

FEE

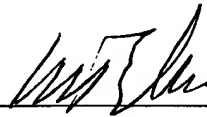
A fee in connection with submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR §1.97(c) in the amount of \$180.00 in accordance with 37 CFR §1.17(p) is attached.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date September 3, 2004

By _____



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William T. Ellis
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 26,874

The PTO did not receive the following
listed Items(s) \$180.00

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: September 3, 2004 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known		
				Application Number		09/816,420
				Filing Date		March 23, 2001
				First Named Inventor		George H. HOFFMAN et al.
				Group Art Unit		3627
				Examiner Name		Florian M. Zeender
Sheet 1 of 3				Attorney Docket Number		062834-0178

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
		5,204,821		Inui et al.	04-20-1993	
		5,490,060		Malec et al.	02-06-1996	
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 Examiner
Signature

 Date
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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				Examiner Name	Florian M. Zeender
				Attorney Docket Number	062834-0178
Sheet	2	of	3		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
	U.S. Patent Document				
	2002/0165806	A1	Kataria et al.	11-07-2002	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> RECEIVED SEP 9 2004 GROUP 3600 </div>
	2002/0169658	A1	Adler et al.	11-14-2002	
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		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶
		Noori, Hamid; Production and Operations Management; Total Quality Responsiveness; McGraw-Hill; 1995; pages 422-519	
		Noori, Hamid; Production and Operations Management; Total Quality Responsiveness; McGraw-Hill; 1995; pages 592-601	
		PR Newswire: Andersen Consulting Announce Strategic Alliance, Looksmart, September 6, 2000	
		Microsoft Computer Dictionary, 4 th Edition, Microsoft Press, 1999, pages 167, 242, 334, 421, 443, 444 and 462	
		Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary; 3 rd Edition; 1997; Microsoft Press; pages 355 and 463	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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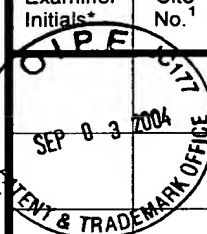
¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

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		Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary; 10 th Edition; 1996; page 139.	RECEIVED SEP 9 2004 GROUP 3600
		Troyer, Charles; The Role of Bar Codes in Food Safety; Food Distributors International; May 2000, entire document.	
		Common identification Standards; GCI; Global Scorecard.net-Guide to ECT concepts.	

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